

FIG. 2

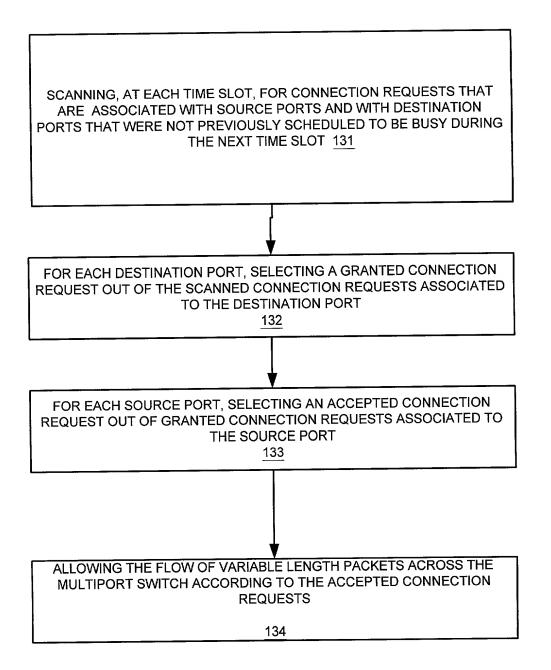
<u>ත</u>

CHECKING, AT EACH TIME SLOT, FORWARDING REQUESTS TO FORWARD VARIABLE LENGTH PACKETS FROM SOURCE PORTS TO DESTINATION PORTS OF THE MULTIPORT SWITCH, IGNORING FORWARDING REQUESTS FROM SOURCE PORTS AND DESTINATION PORTS THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED TO FORWARD AND RECEIVE ACCORDINGLY AT LEAST PORTIONS OF VARIABLE LENGTH PACKETS DURING THE NEXT TIME SLOT 111 SELECTING SELECTED FORWARDING REQUESTS OUT OF THE CHECKED FORWARDING REQUESTS 112 CONFIGURING THE MULTIPORT SWITCH FOR ALLOWING TO SERVICE THE SELECTED FORWARDING REQUESTS DURING THE NEXT TIME SLOT 113

110

PERIODICALLY CHECKING CONNECTION REQUESTS, EACH CONNECTION REQUEST REQUESTING TO COUPLE A DESTINATION PORT TO A SOURCE PORT FOR FORWARDING A VARIABLE LENGTH PACKET FROM THE SOURCE PORT TO THE DESTINATION PORT, IGNORING CONNECTION REQUESTS FROM SOURCE PORTS AND DESTINATION PORTS THAT ARE COUPLED DURING THE CURRENT TIME SLOT FOR FORWARDING VARIABLE LENGTH PACKETS THAT ARE SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE DURING THE NEXT TIME SLOT 121 PROCESSING THE CHECKED CONNECTION REQUESTS TO DETERMINE THE CONNECTIVITY OF THE CROSSBAR SWITCH DURING THE NEXT TIME SLOT 122 PROVIDING CONTROL SIGNALS TO THE CROSSBAR SWITCH IN VIEW OF THE DETERMINATION 123

120



130

SCANNING, AT EACH TIME SLOT, A CONTENT OF INPUT QUEUES WITHIN INPUT PORTS AND GENERATING FLOW REQUESTS FOR ALLOWING VARIABLE LENGTH PACKETS TO FROM FROM INPUT PORTS TO OUTPUT PORTS, BOTH PORTS WERE NOT PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED TO BE BUSY DURING THE NEXT TIME SLOT 141 COMPARING FLOW REQUESTS AND SELECTING SELECTED FLOW REQUESTS TO BE SERVICED DURING THE NEXT TIME SLOT UPDATING THE CONFIGURATION OF THE CONFIGURABLE MULTIPORT SWITCH FOR ALLOWING TO SERVICE THE SELECTED FLOW REQUESTS 144

140